(c) whether any targets are being fixed for each State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Centre seeks participation of States in export promotion by way of provision of adequate and quality infrastructure, input support, relief from imposts, removal of procedural and other constraints etc. States are also consulted on matters which are specific to them. In the Exim policy, there is a provision to recognise one agency of the State Government as Export House in relaxation of the criterion.

An Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme (EPIP) is being implemented in the country since 1993-94 under which 20 EPIPs have been approved for different States all over the country. A total sum of Rs. 152.26 crores has been released so far for the approved EPIPs.

A Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme is also being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under which assistance is provided to States and their agencies for strengthening the infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks to exports. An amount of Rs. 136.05 crores has been sanctioned so far under the scheme for a total number of 67 projects/works.

Various Commodity Boards are implementing schemes for providing incentives and assistance for exports through the State Governments.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of Tobacco Stock by STC

1078. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has agreed to lift stocks of tobacco from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this exercise has started;

(c) the quantity which will be bought by STC and other agencies;

(d) whether STC will make any efforts to explore world markets for Andhra tobacco; and

(e) if not, the reasons for neglect of this exports sector by STC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no directive to STC for market intervention in the auction commenced by Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in Import

1079. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the items the imports of which have been on the increase for the last three years;

(b) from which countries we are importing them; and

(c) what arrangements are being made to produce those items indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Out of the principal commodities of imports, the items which have shown a positive growth during last three years are: Pearls precious and semi-precious stones, dyeing and tanning material, chemical products, manufacture of metals and gold and silver.

(b) The major suppliers of these commodities are as under:

Name of the Commodity	From where imported
Pearls precious and semi-precious stones	Belgium, UK
Dyeing and tanning material	Germany, UK
Chemicals products	USA, Germany
Manufactures of metal	Japan, USA,
Gold and Silver	Switzerland, South Africa

(c) Imports are guided by requirements of domestic industry and domestic production depends on a number of factors such as availability, cost of production and comparative advantage.